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# CONFERENCE connection

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SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 3, 2022

## Reminders From the Conference Minister

by Rev. Kim Wood

It seems like just the other day that we were gathered, both virtually and on site, for Annual Meeting in Montgomery, AL. While the lazy, hazy days of summer may feel like they are racing by at warp speed instead of rolling gently along, we still have much to look forward to and much to do:



- **SECUCC Regional Ministry Teams:** If you haven't yet registered for one of our regional ministry team planning sessions, please do so quickly using the links below. If you participated in one of the regional groups at Annual Meeting, please register for the same region. Representatives from congregations and ministry settings who were not represented at this year's Annual Meeting who are willing to help with planning and implementation register for your specific region. On-site and virtual groups for each region are being combined to create one cohesive group. Registration links are below -you must register in advance:

- **Alabama/Mississippi** - Tuesday, August 16 6:30 – 8 PM Central Time  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAqdO6srDwqGdQ4iFf3dhd9o3rXvJkiyp1c>
- **Georgia** – Tuesday, August 23 6:30 – 8 PM Eastern Time  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwtf-2gqjMvH9BBIkqzwOsUBZfxgycdNjpb>
- **South Carolina** – Monday, August 22 6:30 – 8 PM Eastern Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcofuqtpzwjGdxWln3DnoY9JZRebVB65lx3>

- **Tennessee** – Thursday, August 25 7 – 8:30 PM Central Time/6 – 7:30 PM Eastern  
Time <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcvfumurzMoGd39xfziNtp2icE9mVNJIUmB>
- **Just Peace in a Southern Context**, a training presented by the Florida Conference and supported by the SECUCC, will take place August 27. Register today at <https://uccfla-reg.brtapp.com/JustPeaceinaSouthernContext>
- **The UCC's Antoinette Brown Society** will hold its bi-annual meeting September 27-29 in Decatur, Georgia. Clergywomen desiring to attend, go to <https://cvent.me/a8Ww4D> to register.

In addition to these exciting opportunities, I remind you that September 30 is the last day of our fiscal year. I am so grateful for the generosity of congregations and individuals in the Southeast Conference so far this year. If you yet have contributions for FY2022, please be sure to get them in by the end of September. And if you haven't yet made a commitment to the Friends of the Conference fund for FY2023, please notify the Southeast Conference office of your intentions at [hfosburgh@secucc.org](mailto:hfosburgh@secucc.org). or PO Box 1950, Decatur GA, 30031-1950.

## News from the Conference Office

### From our Generosity Coordinator

*by Min. Carrole Moss*

Greetings and blessings, I can't believe it's August already, this year has been a complete blur for me. For many of us, summer is over. Most of our schools opened this week and that marks the end of vacations and most things fun. For others, it's the opportunity to travel as things are less crowded and rates are lower. Whatever your experience is, I hope you enjoyed your summer and accomplished much!

A huge THANK YOU to all of you who continue to donate/contribute to this Southeast Conference



United Church of Christ. YOU make a difference in the work that is being done and we are truly grateful for your support.

As we are coming to the end of our fiscal year, September 30, 2022, let us consider some new and innovative ways to give. Have you considered giving monthly? It will eliminate the year-end rush. It will also ensure that your contributions are received before our books close in January. This can be done by designating a Sunday that is deemed "Giving Sunday" and not be in a financial end-of-year situation. Please reach out to me to discuss other ways of giving.

Now that the COVID numbers and not surging in some states, I will be able to be with you and your congregations. Please DO NOT GROW WEARY IN WELL DOING: Scripture teaches: "I am always aware of the Lord's presence; he is near and nothing can shake me." Psalm 16:8

We all have different seasons in our lives, ones where everything is great and we could not be happier and the not-so-great ones, Sending prayers and blessings to all of you! May our GOD continue to bless you all richly is my prayer.

Thank you for all that you do and for all the many ways you continue to bless this conference. I am available to you. Please contact me.

Blessings as we continue to JOURNEY...  
Min. Carrole



## Southeast Conference Forming Disaster Ministry Leadership Team

The Southeast Conference is seeking volunteers to serve as Conference Disaster Coordinators (CDCs) for Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and South Carolina. These individuals/couples will join our Tennessee CDC to form our Disaster Ministry Leadership Team.

CDCs will stay connected to the information and disaster-related organizations in their designated state, including the state VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster); work together as a team with conference staff and leadership to organize the SECUCC Disaster Response and Recovery Ministry; help to coordinate the SECUCC disaster response and work with the wider UCC Disaster Ministries as the need arises and resources are available. Interested parties are invited to contact Rev. Kim Wood, Conference Minister at 404-615-2492 or by email at [kwood@secucc.org](mailto:kwood@secucc.org).

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## Clergy Zoom Connections for August

- **An Hour of Conversations and Prayer**

Tuesday, August 9, 16, 23, 30 - 11:00 a.m. Eastern (10:00 a.m. Central); Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/479440102>

- **Live Harp Meditations for Ministers**

Thursday, August 18 - 1:00 p.m. Eastern (12:00 noon Central)  
20 minutes of meditation with Celtic harp. Silent prayer and reflection following if desired, facilitated by Rev. Jean Norton.  
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96976838422>

- **Especially for Specialized Ministers**

Tuesday, August 23 - 9:30 a.m. Eastern (8:30 a.m. Central)  
Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/354744689>

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## Prayer List

We are continuing the process of praying for authorized ministers, congregations, and ministry groups throughout 2022. We encourage you to include these prayer requests in your local church newsletter, share them with your prayer circle, and include them in your own prayers.

### Week of July 31

- Unity UCC; Montgomery, Alabama
- Kathryn Hauk
- Lewis Kola
- Sonya Gravlee

### Week of August 7

- First Congregational UCC; Savannah, Georgia
- Mary Brueggemann
- Rose Hermonat
- Derrick Rice
- George Thomas

### Week of August 14

- First United Church of Christ; Sweetwater, Tennessee
- Tommy Hill
- Stanley Roat
- Dave Sigmund

## Churches in Transition

First Congregational, Savannah GA; Trinity Congregational, Athens AL; Holy Trinity Community Church, Nashville TN; First United Church, Belvidere TN; Pleasant Hill Community Church, Pleasant Hill TN; Deer Lodge Congregational Church, Deer Lodge TN; Brookemeade Congregational, Nashville TN; Rush Memorial, Atlanta GA; Sandy Creek, Lafayette AL

## News from Our Local Congregations



### HYBRID Shrimp Boil a Success!

*by Mary Ruth*

[Pleasant Hill Community Church](#) hosted its 6th annual Shrimp Boil on July 23 to benefit Back Bay Mission and welcomed BBM Executive Director, Rev. James Pennington, as program presenter. This year the event presold 75 tickets and offered Take-Out or Eat-In — making it a hybrid sort of event. Once again 'Shrimp Chef' volunteers from Ohio brought equipment and a flair for flavor. The meal menu included: shrimp, sauce, rice and beans, slaw, cornbread, and peach cobbler. More than 40 volunteers donned colorful hats, enjoyed helping with cooking, setting up, directing traffic, serving on the meal assembly line, boxing up each meal, hosting, cleaning up, and more. Net proceeds are predicted to be about \$2,000 to send to Back Bay Mission to 'strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice, and transform lives' along the Gulf Coast.



## Qwesting West

*by Rev. Haley Lerner*

It's not every day that you get to spend two weeks in the wilderness of the American West with some fantastic clergy colleagues and nine thoughtful, hilarious, and kind college students, but this May, I got to do just that! As campus minister of the Presbyterian Student Center, I had the privilege to travel as one of the staff members of Qwest West 2022. If you have any college students in your congregation who might be interested in participating in Qwest West, it is projected to depart again in May 2023. It is a wonderful time of growth and exploration as we journey together! [Read the full article on our website.](#)

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## Ordination Celebrations of 65 and 35 years!

It was very special to see Rev. Ann Schoup and her son, Rev. Bruce Schoup, celebrating Holy Communion together recently at Pleasant Hill Community Church. Ann was ordained with her late husband Hal Schoup in 1957 following their graduation from Lancaster Theological Seminary. They were the first couple to go through the Bachelor of Divinity program at any seminary! From 1957 to 1972, they served as missionaries in Iraq, Syria, and Turkey. Ann's ministry also included Hospital Administration and the Director of Admissions at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Bruce graduated from Andover Newton Seminary and was ordained in 1987. He has served in pastoral roles during most of his career. However, he also taught New Testament for one year at a seminary in Ghana. For two years, he served as a chaplain at Haigazian University, which is related to the Armenian Presbyterian Church of Lebanon, a UCC partner de-nomination. He currently is the interim pastor at First Congregational UCC, Geneseo, IL.

## News from the Wider Church





## Just Peace in a Southern Context

The Florida Conference of the UCC, in cooperation with the Southern, Southeast and South Central Conferences along with Justice and Local Church Ministries, invites you to join us for "Just Peace in a Southern Context" on Saturday, Aug. 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This virtual event will offer a historical overview, theological grounding, and current examples of why being a Just Peace Church matters today. Guest Speakers will include Rev. Dr. Susan Thistlethwaite, Rev. Geoffrey Black, Sandra Sorensen, and others. The UCC Washington Office and members of the UCC Just Peace Network will share examples of how together we can bring hope for a more just and peaceful tomorrow. There is no cost to attend the event. However, registration is required. [Register today!](#)

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## UCC Cuba Study Seminar 2023 Set to Go

*by Curly Stumb, Southern Conference UCC e-News editor*

Sixty-nine years ago, on July 26<sup>th</sup> of 1953, Cuba declared its independence from foreign powers. Oddly enough, this declaration happened in the context of defeat. The Cuban revolutionaries' attack on the Moncada Army Barracks in Santiago ended tragically. Yet, on this day Cuban independence was declared. On our upcoming trip to Cuba we will tour the Moncada Barracks and learn all about this critical moment in Cuban history. ([For more information see Attack on the Moncada Barracks - Wikipedia](#)).

Rev. Tom Warren reports that "We are pleased to affirm that our next trip has been scheduled for Friday, February 10th - Sunday, February 19th, 2023, gathering in Miami on Thursday, February 9th for dinner and trip orientation. [Contact Tom Warren HERE to request application.](#)

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## Join the Global Ministries Mission Dash 5K!

This August, Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is hosting its very first Mission Dash, and you are invited to join us! Walk, roll, run, jog, advocate, or spiritually sprint wherever you are! You may choose to do the dash with your neighbors, friends, family, church, or on your own. The cost is \$25 per person, and each registrant will receive a collapsible water bottle and magnet.

Throughout the 5K month of August, there will be opportunities to participate in climate justice advocacy actions in solidarity with international partners. Part of the registration fee will also support the work of international partners in their climate justice efforts and additional fundraising opportunities are available. You are encouraged to do the 5K anytime between August 1 and August 31, 2022.

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## Matching Grants Available for Disaster Ministries

UCC congregations assembling Church World Service Emergency Cleanup Buckets, CWS School and Hygiene Kits and now also CWS Welcome Backpacks may apply for a UCC Matching Grant of up to \$250 from UCC Disaster Ministries.

Members of the congregation pre-assemble these supplies according to specifications ([cwskits.org](https://cwskits.org)), which then are warehoused by CWS, ready to be shipped at a moment's notice when needed.

The Kits and Cleanup Buckets assist hurricane and other disaster relief

efforts. The Backpacks welcome newly arrived immigrants, who often come with few or no possessions. [Apply for your \\$250 Matching Grant - application and report forms are here.](#)

## Trainings and Conferences



### Healthy Boundaries 301: Money, Sex, & Power

**September 16, 1:45 - 5:15 ET (Part 1)**

**AND September 17, 8:45 am - 12:15 pm ET (Part 2)**

Both sessions required

*Register by September 6, 2022 to receive workbook; no registrations accepted after September 10*

An advanced discussion of healthy boundaries for clergy and church leaders, designed for those who have completed Healthy Boundaries 101. This workshop builds on the basics and applies boundaries principles to specific situations with a particular emphasis on power dynamics, finances, sexual attraction, sexual harassment, and pornography. Registration for this workshop is through the Christian Church in Georgia. Register [here](#) and then return to this page to make your payment following instructions below. (Healthy Boundaries 201 and Healthy Boundaries 301 can be taken in any order, as long as the participant has completed Healthy Boundaries 101.)

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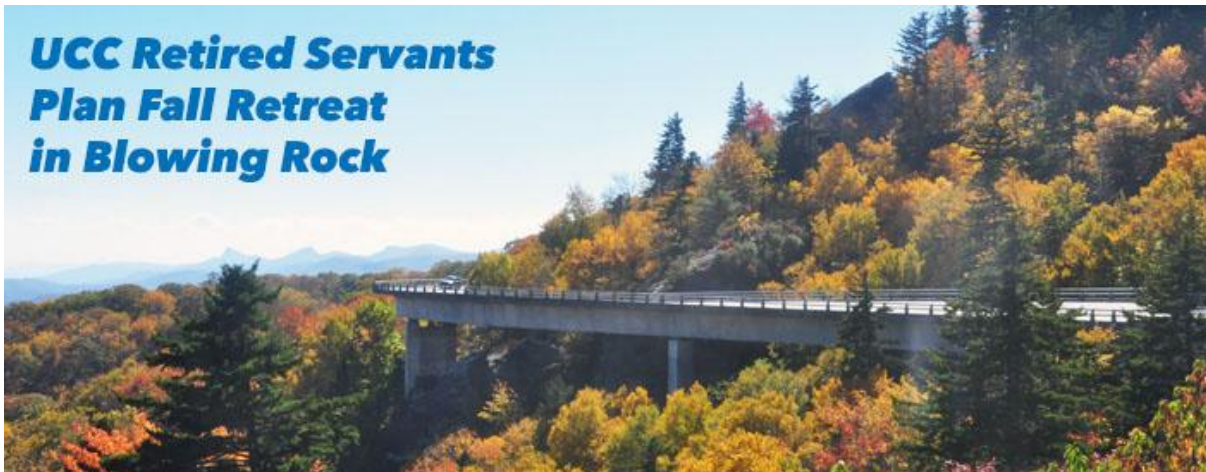




## UCC Clergywomen Leadership Event in Decatur, GA

The UCC Clergywomen's Leadership Event has been postponed at least twice during the pandemic, and we are excited to be offering the event this September 27-29 in Decatur, GA. "For Such a Time: To Confront, Connect, and Create at the Intersection of Race and Gender" is open to authorized clergywomen\* in the United Church of Christ. [Registration](#) is now open for in-person and online gathering. (\* This invitation is expansive to include all cis and trans women as well as non-binary people comfortable in a space that centers on the experiences of women.)

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## UCC Retired Servants Retreat

*October 10 - 12 (Mon. - Wed. with optional Sunday arrival)*  
*Blowing Rock Conference Center*

- **Theme:** The ministry and spirituality of Howard Thurmond
- **Presenter:** Lerita Coleman Brown
- **Host Site:** Blowing Rock Conference Center, Blowing Rock, NC
- **Date:** October 10-12, 2022 (Monday-Wednesday, with optional Sunday arrival)

An Event for intellectual stimulation, spiritual enlightenment and reflection; and renewing friendships and/or making new friends for Retired UCC Clergy, Missionaries, Volunteer Ministry Workers and Spouses of the Southeast and Southern Conferences of the United Church of Christ.

Register now by contacting Jared Greer, Reservations Manager at Blowing Rock Conference Center [jared@brccenter.org](mailto:jared@brccenter.org) or by calling him at (828) 295-7813.



## **2022 UCC Southern Regional Women's Retreat**

*October 14-16, 2022*

*Camp Weed & Cervený Conference Center – Live Oak, Florida*

Theme: God of Mystery – Spirit of Hope

Join women from across the South at the 2022 UCC Southern Regional Women's Retreat Oct. 14-16 at Camp Weed & Cervený Conference Center in Live Oak, Florida. The theme is "God of Mystery – Spirit of Hope" with the scripture Romans 12:12-13.

Please note that there will be no refunds for cancellations after Sept. 15, 2022. For more information and additional registration options, please visit <https://www.uccfla.org/floridauccwomen>.

## Conference Calendar

August 9 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

August 11 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm EDT

[Board of Directors Meeting](#)

August 16 @ 11:00 am - 12:00 pm EDT

[Clergy Conversations via Zoom](#)

August 16 @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm CDT

[Alabama/Mississippi Regional Ministry Team Planning Meeting](#)

August 18 @ 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm EDT

[Live Harp Meditations for Ministers](#)

August 18 @ 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm EDT

[Commission on Ministry Meeting](#)

August 22 @ 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm EDT

[South Carolina Regional Ministry Team Planning Meeting](#)

August 23 @ 9:30 am - 11:00 am EDT

[Zoom Conversation for Specialized Ministers](#)

August 25 @ 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm CDT

[Tennessee Regional Ministry Team Planning Meeting](#)

View the full calendar of events online: <https://www.secucc.org/events/>

## Contact Us

Conference Minister: **Rev. Kim Wood**; [kwood@secucc.org](mailto:kwood@secucc.org)

Assoc. Conf. Minister: **Rev. Heather Fosburgh**; [hfosburgh@secucc.org](mailto:hfosburgh@secucc.org)

Generosity Coordinator: **Min. Carrole Moss**; [cmoss@secucc.org](mailto:cmoss@secucc.org)



Director of Communications: **Don Harris;** [dharris@secucc.org](mailto:dharris@secucc.org)

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